

PERCENT OF MOTHERS NOT ATTENDED BY A PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE

Objective

By 1990, virtually all women who give birth should have appropriately attended, safe delivery, provided in ways acceptable to them and their families.

Explanatory Notes

Assumes that "appropriately attended, safe delivery" means delivery attended by a physician or midwife. U.S. data were not comparably tabulated prior to 1975. No data are available on deliveries "provided in ways acceptable to women and their families." In North Carolina since 1980, certified nurse midwives have accounted for 98 to more than 99 percent of all midwife deliveries.

Findings

With the N.C. percentage of unattended deliveries falling well below one percent, a goal of "virtually all" can be claimed. The higher N.C. percentages beginning in 1979 may reflect an increase in the number of women who by choice sought alternative birthing arrangements (3).

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics
United States: National Center for Health Statistics